



# Briefing: Local Government (Water Services) Bill Submission.

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**10 February 2025 – 3.50pm**

## Attendees

**Elected Members:** Mayor Barry, Cr Barratt, Cr Brown (via audio-visual link), Cr Dyer (via audio-visual link), Cr Edwards, Deputy Mayor Lewis (via audio-visual link), Cr Mitchell, Cr Parkin, Cr Shaw, Cr Stallinger, Karen Yung (Petone Community Board); L Bingley (Wainuiomata Community Board via audio-visual link) and M Fisher (Petone Community Board).

**Staff:** A Blackshaw, Acting Chief Executive; J Livschitz, Group Chief Financial Officer; K Stannard, Acting Director Strategy and Engagement; J Kingsbury, Director Economy and Development; A Geddes, Director Environment and Sustainability; C Ellis, Head of Chief Executive's Office; R Hardie, Head of Strategy and Policy; C Parish, Head of Mayor's Office; B Hodgins, Strategic Advisor; D Nunnian, Manager Financial Planning and Performance; N Twilton, Strategic Financial Advisor; A Andrews, Finance Transaction Services Manager; H Singh, Advisor Strategic Planning and Business (via audio-visual link); W Botha, Corporate Planning Lead (via audio-visual link) and V Gilmour, Democracy Advisor.

## Apologies

Cr Briggs, Cr Tupou and Cr Morgan.

## Presenters

B Hodgins, Strategic Advisor

## Introduction and Key Objectives of the Briefing

This briefing provides an overview of the Water Services Bill and its implications for local councils, particularly in relation to the Government's *Local Water Done Well* policy. The Bill is the third piece of legislation supporting this policy and sets out the detailed arrangements for water service delivery, including entity governance. It is expected to be enacted by mid-2025 following the Select Committee hearings process. A draft joint submission has been prepared by Simpson Grierson, the Regional Team and council officers on behalf of Greater Wellington Regional Council and the Wellington Metro councils, focusing on key provisions affecting a jointly owned water organisation.

## Presentation by Bruce Hodgins, Strategic Advisor

**Slide 1 – Local water done well, Local Government (Water Services) Bill Submission.**

**Slide 2 – Background.**

**Slide 3 – Submission Timeline.**

**Slide 4 – Key Definitions.**

**Slide 5 – Six Key Concerns.**

**Slide 6 – Key Concern – Broader objectives needed.**

**Slide 7 – Key Concern – Excessive controls.**

**Slide 8 – Key Concern – Define relationships with iwi/Māori.**

**Slide 9 – Key Concern – Transfer agreement with a WO within 6 Months.**

**Slide 10 – Key Concern – Works on private land.**

**Slide 11 – Key Concern – Complexity and compliance cost for WOs and WSPs.**

**Slide 12 – Other Concerns.**

**Slide 13 – Questions.**

## **Questions and discussion points**

- The requirements outlined in the Water Services Bill—such as providing safe drinking water, managing wastewater and stormwater effectively, and minimising adverse environmental effects—ensure that water service entities prioritise long-term infrastructure planning and environmental responsibility. While some obligations, like supplying safe drinking water, are fundamental and non-negotiable, others—such as preventing any adverse environmental impact—are more aspirational and may present significant challenges. However, by setting these as legal obligations, the legislation encourages ongoing investment and improvements in water service management.

## **Next steps**

- 14 February 2025 – Advisory Oversight Group (AOG) to review
- 20 February 2025 – CEOs to proof final version
- AOG members will be signatories (for Hutt City Council and the Mayor)
- 23 February 2025 – Submissions close
- Oral submission to be led by Chair of AOG, Kerry Prendergast

# Briefing materials

**Attachment 1** – Presentation: [Local Government \(Water Services\) Bill Submission](#)  
[pg.12](#)

**The briefing closed at 4.00pm**